

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, the pending claims are claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 12, of which claim 1 is in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended. On May 24, 2006, attorney for Applicants, Jason S. Charkow, participated in a telephone conference with Examiner Wilson to discuss the outstanding Office Action. This Amendment After Final sets forth the agreement regarding the claims which the Examiner and the Applicants reached during the telephone conference. Applicants would like to thank Examiner Wilson for taking time to discuss the outstanding Office Action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,060,114 to Matsushima ("the Matsushima '114 patent"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the Matsushima '114 patent. Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define Applicants' invention. Applicants have removed the language "wherein the borehole has an uninterrupted, closed end." After discussion with the Examiner, it was determined that this language was unnecessary to distinguish the invention over the Matsushima '114 patent. Accordingly, this language was deleted from the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Matsushima '114 patent does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. Specifically, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in the Matsushima '114 patent of a "top portion project[ing] transversely away from the central axis such that the free end of the top portion distal to the bend is further away from the central axis than any other portion of the top portion when the spring wire is unstressed."

As all the features recited in independent claim 1, as amended, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the Matsushima '114 patent, Applicants submit that claim 1 is

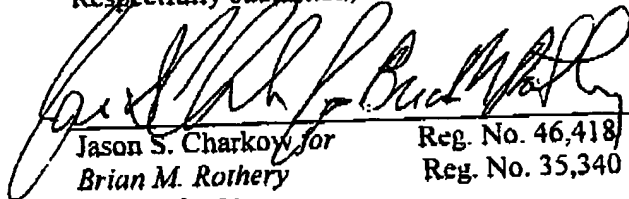
allowable over the Matsushita '114 patent. Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8 and 12 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

In light of Applicants' amendments and remarks, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns regarding the amendments, remarks or the above-identified application, then a telephonic interview with the undersigned is respectfully requested to discuss any such questions or concerns and to accelerate the allowance of the above-identified application.

No fee is believed due for this submission. However, should any fee be required, please charge all such fees to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

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Respectfully submitted,



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